

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the instant application. Claims 14-21 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-13 have been rejected by the Examiner. The Office Action has been made final by the Examiner.

By the above Amendments, Claims 1, 2 and 10 have been amended to limit the compounds of formula (I) to those wherein R^C and R^D are each independently selected from hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl. Applicants further note that R^A and R^B as currently defined are each independently selected from hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl. Applicants submit that the amendments are fully supported by the specification as filed (see for example, page 17, lines 21-22), and that no new matter is being added. Applicants further submit that the Amendments to Claims 1, 2 and 10 are being made solely to advance the prosecution of the instant application and are not in any way to be construed as an admission that the canceled material is unpatentable. Thus, Applicants reserve the right to pursue coverage of the canceled material by filing a continuation or a divisional application at an appropriate time in the future.

After entry of the amendments, Claims 1-13 will remain pending and under consideration. Reconsideration of the captioned application based on the previous amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1-13 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph has been maintained by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to the above amendments which have narrowed the scope of R^C and R^D , thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection.

Entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested because the amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better condition for appeal.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

/Hal Brent Woodrow/
Hal Brent Woodrow
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 32,501

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-2976
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